

REMARKS

This Amendment is filed in response to the Second Office Action dated June 21, 2005, which has a shortened statutory period set to September 21, 2005. A one month extension request is included herein, thereby extending the response time to October 21, 2005.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants greatly appreciate the Examiner's indication of allowable subject matter. Specifically, Claims 36-42, 62, and 64-73 are allowed. Additionally, Claims 20 and 24-32 are objected to, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form to include the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Because Applicant believes that Claim 19 is patentable (see below) and Claims 20, 24-32 depend from Claim 19, Claims 20-24-32 have not been amended.

Applicants Overcome The Rejection Of Claims 19 And 21-23

Claim 19 recites an antenna that includes "at least one electronic component connected to the RF input pin, said electronic component having a value that identifies at least one property of the antenna". Applicants respectfully submit that Gomez fails to teach this self-identifying component.

Gomez teaches a loop antenna (col. 5, line 13, Figs. 2 & 3) that can either be open at a wristband clasp (disconnected), or closed (connected - when the clasp is closed) (col. 5, lines 46-48). This loop antenna is mechanically coupled to a housing that includes several components, such as a receiver and a decoder, that measure and analyze a closure sensing signal. Col. 3, lines 27-36 and col. 4, lines 55-66. Therefore, Gomez fails to teach that the antenna itself can include a self-identifying component.

Because the electrical component is provided on the antenna itself, it is very difficult or even impossible for a user to attach an antenna that is not intended for use with the device. Specification, page 4, lines 17-23. Notably, Gomez cannot provide this functionality. Because Gomez fails to disclose or suggest the recited electronic component that forms part of the antenna (or appreciate its advantages), Applicants request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of Claim 19.

Claims 21-23 depend from Claim 19 and therefore are patentable for at least the reasons presented for Claim 19. Based on those reasons, Applicants request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of Claims 21-23.

Moreover, Claim 21 recites "wherein said at least one electronic component is a circuit having a resonant frequency related to said at least one property of the antenna". The Office Action cites microprocessor/decoder 216 as teaching this limitation. Applicants traverse this characterization. The description of decoder 216 in Gomez teaches nothing regarding a resonant frequency, much less a resonant frequency related to said at least one property of the antenna. Therefore, Applicants request further reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of Claim 21.

Moreover, Claim 22 recites "wherein said at least one electronic component is a microchip configured to transmit a value related to antenna properties via the RF input pin". The Office Action cites microprocessor/decoder 216 as teaching this limitation. Applicants traverse this characterization. The description of decoder 216 in Gomez teaches nothing regarding the electrical component transmitting a value related to antenna properties via the RF input pin. Therefore, Applicants request further reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of Claim 22.

Moreover Claim 23 recites "wherein said at least one electronic component is a microchip configured to send a challenge response in response to a challenge, said challenge response including a value related to said at least one property of the antenna". The Office Action cites microprocessor/decoder 216 as teaching this limitation. Applicants traverse this characterization. The description of decoder 216 in Gomez teaches nothing regarding a challenge, much less the electrical component sending a challenge response, wherein the challenge response includes a value related to said at least one property of the antenna. Therefore, Applicants request further reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of Claim 23.

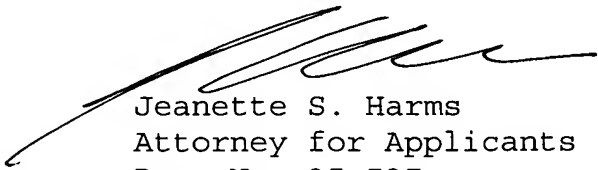
CONCLUSION

Claims 19-32, 36-42, 62, and 64-73 are pending in the present application. Applicants respectfully request allowance of these claims.

If there are any questions, please telephone the undersigned at 408-451-5907 to expedite prosecution of this case.

Respectfully submitted,

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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as FIRST CLASS MAIL in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on October 17, 2005.

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Date


Signature: Rebecca A. Baumann